



**Indianapolis**  
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor

# NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MAYOR BALLARD LAUNCHES 2012 PACK THE PANTRIES**

INDIANAPOLIS - Mayor Greg Ballard today encouraged area organizations, businesses and residents to respond to local food pantries' need for donations during the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Pack the Pantries citywide food drive. Led by the Mayor's Office Front Porch Alliance, Pack the Pantries is an annual event that collects much-needed supplies for area food banks and pantries.

"Our annual partners Gleaners and Midwest Food Bank have provided significant support for the recent Hurricane Sandy relief effort, and now is the time to replenish their shelves so that they can continue to serve local pantries as well," said mayor Ballard. "Food and monetary donations to our food banks and pantries are critical."

The launch of this year's initiative took place today at Lucas Oil Stadium in coordination with the Million Meal Marathon, an annual effort sponsored by Kids Against Hunger and The Jefferson Awards. More than 3,000 volunteers are packing one million meals for the program, developed to specifically mobilize passionate, Hoosier volunteers in efforts to eradicate hunger.

2012 Pack the Pantries participating partners include Fox 59, IHOP, Lake City Bank, the Indianapolis Indians, the Indiana Ice, the Indianapolis Colts and the Indy Hunger Network.

Pack the Pantries continues through Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, when Mayor Ballard will lead the "Caravan of Care" as donations are delivered via convoy to local food banks. From now through Dec. 10, residents are asked to drop off donations at designated drop locations, including IMPD police stations and IFD fire stations. Please donate NON-PERISHABLE items.\* Monetary donations may be made to the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (note: Pack the Pantries), City of Indianapolis - Mayor's Office, 200 E. Washington, Suite 2501, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

*\* Suggested items include canned meats such as tuna and chicken; heat-and-serve meals, such as soups or ravioli; fruit juices; canned fruits and vegetables; peanut butter and jelly; and other kid-friendly foods including macaroni, cereal, applesauce cups and healthy non-perishable snacks.*

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